



# Canadian International School of Egypt

## Mr. Jason Brazeau

### HRT3M- World Religions

### 2012/2013 Course Overview



Welcome to HRT3M World Religions. This course enables students to discover what others believe and how they live, and to appreciate their own unique heritage. Students will learn about the teachings and traditions of a variety of religions, the connections between religion and the development of civilizations, the place and function of religion in human experience, and the influence of a broad range of religions on contemporary society. This course also introduces students to skills used in researching and investigating world religions.

#### **Unit 1- The Religious Impulse**

In Unit One, you will be introduced to essential concepts in the study of world religions. The first three activities examine core questions to the study of religions, such as “What is religion?” and “Why do people believe in God?” You will examine a variety of responses to these questions and discover how belief manifests itself in the world that we live in today. The activities introduce you to the religious realities of ancient Greece and Aboriginal Spirituality. This will give you a further understanding of what faith means for believers and gives you an understanding of what religion means to adherents.

The final unit activities allow you to dive in to the relationship between religion and politics, and experience the realities of religion today. You will complete a variety of pieces for submission, including teacher marked and journal entry assignments, statistical analysis, and small projects and a Summative Unit Test

#### **Unit 2- Hinduism**

As part of the introduction to the unit, you will complete a diagnostic activity that allows the teacher to assess your level of awareness and knowledge based on personal experience and exposure to Hinduism. From this diagnostic activity, the teacher will determine whether or not you have the necessary language and familiarity with basic Hindu terms and concepts. Next, you will explore the fundamental beliefs and expressions of faith of adherents and examine the realities of religious life today. Opportunities for whole class, small group, and individual learning are provided, so that by the end of the unit, you are able to demonstrate a knowledge and appreciation of Hinduism from both an historical and modern perspective.

### **Unit 3- Buddhism**

As part of the introduction to the unit, you will complete a diagnostic activity that allows the teacher to assess your level of awareness and knowledge based on personal experience and exposure to Buddhism. From this diagnostic activity, the teacher will determine whether or not you have the necessary language and familiarity with basic Buddhist terms and concepts. Next, you will explore the fundamental beliefs and expressions of faith of adherents and examine the realities of religious life today. Opportunities for whole class, small group, and individual learning are provided, so that by the end of the unit, you are able to demonstrate a knowledge and appreciation of Buddhism from both an historical and modern perspective.

### **Unit 4- Judaism**

In this unit, you will examine concepts essential to understanding Judaism. Specifically, you will examine influential Jewish leaders such as Abraham and Moses to gain an appreciation of their contributions to the growth and development of the faith system. You will examine the Jewish perception and understanding of God and study how adherents demonstrate their belief and devotion. You will see what it really means to be Jewish and analyze how the faith developed and is expressed in the world today. You will finish the unit by examining the history of Jewish persecution and one of history's true tragedies, the Holocaust. Throughout the unit, you will complete a variety of knowledge, application, thinking, and communication activities designed to provide formative and summative feedback and assessment. You will complete an assignment for Holocaust Awareness and may complete the unit by writing a summative test.

### **Unit 5- Christianity**

Simply put, the Western world is dominated by Christianity today. This is apparent when you look at laws, movies, principles, values, and statistics. Approximately 1/3 of the world's people consider themselves to be Christian. The birth of Christianity happened in present day Israel about 2000 years ago, and exists today in various forms, including Roman Catholicism and Protestantism. Every continent has a strong Christian "presence." The question is "Why?" There are really two answers if you try to provide a simple solution to this question. First, Christianity offers a rewarding way of life on earth.

Imagine if everyone really did treat others as they would like to be treated. Secondly, it offers the promise of eternal life in heaven. Christians believe that Jesus made this promise, that he is the incarnate son of God and saviour of the world. Christians also believe that Jesus died on the cross to forgive human sin and to "save" humans. It is easy to forget the influence that Christianity has on you as a Canadian today. Christianity is the religion of the majority of Canadians. Christian missionaries had an enormous impact on early Canadian settlement and exploration. Religion constituted the basis of some early political conflict in this country. In short, despite an emphasis on multiculturalism, Christianity is a central part of many Canadians' lives.

## **Unit 6- Islam**

In this unit, you will examine Islam, the second largest religion in the world today. Tracing the religion from its earliest days, you will gain knowledge and understanding of how and why the historical realities of religions impact and influence faith today. You will examine the expression of this faith and how beliefs compare and conflict with the realities of life in the twenty-first century. You will finish this unit by completing a Culminating Activity or a Unit Test.

Unit 7- Course Culminating Project (More to come on this section)